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CLAIMS

1. A method of treating marine growth on a surface, including the steps of confining a volume adjacent a portion of the surface, introducing a heated fluid into the volume to heat the marine growth and moving the confined volume over the surface to treat other portions of the surface..
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, including the further step of retaining the confined volume adjacent the surface.
3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the confined volume is retained adjacent the surface regardless of the orientation of the surface.
4. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the step of retaining the volume adjacent the surface is carried out utilising magnetism.
5. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of exhausting heated fluid from the confined volume as further heated fluid is introduced to the confined volume.
6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the heated fluid is exhausted into the surrounding environment.
7. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the confined volume has a relatively small thickness depression.

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8. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of conforming the confined volume with the shape of the surface as the
5 confined volume is moved over the surface.

9. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of varying the temperature of the heated fluid during treatment, whereby
10 to determine the most effective temperature.

10. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of varying a rate of introduction of the heated fluid during treatment, whereby
15 to determine the most effective rate.

11. A method in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the surface is a surface of a hull of a water-going craft.
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12. A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the treatment is carried out under the water line of the craft while the craft is in the water.

25 13. An apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface, including a confinement arrangement arranged to confine a volume adjacent a portion of the surface, the confinement arrangement being provided with an entry port arranged to enable introduction of a heated fluid to the volume, the
30 confinement arrangement being movable over the surface to enable treatment of other portions of the surface.

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14. An apparatus in accordance with claim 13, the confinement arrangement further including a retaining means which is arranged to retain the confinement arrangement approximate the surface so that the volume remains adjacent the surface.
15. An apparatus in accordance with claim 14, wherein the retaining means includes one or more magnets mounted to the confinement arrangement.
16. An apparatus in accordance with claim, 13, 14 or 15, the confinement arrangement further including an exhaust means enabling heated fluid that is being introduced into the volume to be exhausted from the volume.
17. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, the exhaust means including a flexible seal which borders the confinement arrangement.
18. An apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein the confinement arrangement is arranged to conform with the shape of the surface as it is moved over the surface.
19. An apparatus in accordance with claim 18, wherein the confinement arrangement comprises a flexible cover.
20. An arrangement in accordance with claim 19, wherein the flexible cover comprises a number of relatively rigid components linked together so that they can move relative to each other to facilitate flexibility of the cover.
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21. An apparatus for treating marine growth on a surface, including a housing for mounting a heating means to enable heating of a portion of the surface, and a retaining means arranged to retain the housing proximate the surface, the
5 housing arrangement being moveable over the surface to enable treatment of other portions of the surface.

22. A method of treating marine growth on a surface, including the steps of utilising a heating arrangement to
10 heat a portion of the surface, retaining the heating arrangement against the surface and moving the heating arrangement over the surface to treat other portions of the surface.